



**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission**

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

AGENDA

17 November 2016

City Hall—McCloskey Room

1. Introductions

Present: Dedaimia Whitney, Linda Thompson, Dave Debikey, Andy Marrs, Chris Neggers, Kriste Lindberg, Mike Litwin, Wendy Wertz, David Parkhurst, Ramsay Harik, Nick Kappas, Riley Zipper, Sarah Green

Absent: Chaim Julian, Chad Roeder

Guests: 2 guests

2. Approval of minutes

Approved by voice vote: all yes

3. Public comment

Brooke Pellerite

- She supports Lawns for Life and the current sign because it has recognition. Lawns for Life could encompass a lot of things, such as encouraging native species, removing invasive species, and reducing gasoline powered mowers.
- The EC wants to rework Lawns for Life and rename it, but keep the same kind of program.

4. Presentation: Linda Thompson, "City of Bloomington Green Development Incentives"

- The Green Development Incentives are already in the Unified Development Ordinance, so this could encourage green building through these incentives.
- The EC should consider whether the language is good enough, if the incentives are good enough, if it really promotes green building, why it's rarely used, and how it can be improved with the new CMP.
- Sustainable Development Practices
 - There are four goals (Are they vague? Are there good examples for each goal?)
 - There are three levels of incentives depending on how many green building practices are implemented from each of the goals.
 - The incentives are that the builder gets waivers from standards.
- Goal 1: Structures and developments that demonstrate exceptional efficiency in the use of energy and resources and minimize their impact on the natural environment.
 - What does exceptional mean?
- Goal 2: A landscaping and site design that makes and exceptional contribution to the quality of the natural environment.

- Some of the examples aren't quantified.
- Goal 3: A commitment to serve public policy (pedestrian-friendly, mixed use, affordable housing, reduction in auto use) in an exceptional manner.
 - What do they mean by public policy?
 - Mixed residential/nonresidential land use is already required
 - Recycling facilities should be included.
- Goal 4: A location that provides an exceptional opportunity to walk or use public transit.
 - Is ¼ mile to a transit stop exceptional?
- Possible waivers include:
 - Side or rear building setbacks
 - Is this compromising on greenspace?
 - Planning sees it as higher density which they think is greener, because it could be avoiding sprawl.
 - Density
 - Fees
- How much are these incentives desired?
- These green building incentives have been used less than 5 times.
- The EC can come up with new ideas to alter the ordinance.

5. Discussion from 2016 working groups (A cycle)

ECPC

- Patterson Point
 - There is nothing new.
- 815 N College Ave
 - They are going to tear down an old apartment and build two new ones.
 - They haven't said anything about green building
 - There will be 11 units.
 - They haven't submitted any details.

Planning Commission

- IU/private
 - There is a rezoning situation with a private landowner and IU, and they haven't been conforming for 30 years.
 - The owner wants to change it to residential high density to build more apartments.
- Patterson Point
 - The creek restoration plan looks more similar to the original.
 - The developers verbally agreed to almost everything, and they are working on changing the plan.
 - One issue is whether to have on street or boulevard parking.
 - Another issue is modulation and architecture. Some don't like the way it's going in the city, and currently developers are requesting more architectural allowances in recommendations.
- The Plan Commission will have CMP meetings about:
 - Land use
 - Development
 - Policies, goals, and programs
- Tapp Rd
 - This got pushed out to February.
- They are trying to accomplish 20 minutes neighborhoods.

Waste/Hazards

- The working group is regrouping and deciding which projects they want to move forward with, such as composting.
- They want to support mandated recycling for downtown apartment building, but it's on hold.
- Monster Trash wants to take recycling to Indy and incinerate it.

- One issue with mandated recycling is that companies can do whatever they want with it. Some consider incinerating as a form of recycling.
- The working group could work on a proposal that would work, including franchise control and regulations.

Water

- The working group did not have a meeting this month.
- They haven't heard from Green Acres about the graywater pilot.
- The Center for Sustainable Living is interested in graywater.

Other Updates

- There will be no reports at the December meeting, because there will be multiple presentations: one from the mayor and the other about trashion fashion.
- The bucket list meeting will be in January.
- The chairs of each working group need to revisit their interim report and update it. This will be used for the annual report.
- Commissioners should also start to think about initiatives for 2017.

6. Old business

Birthday party

- There was a misunderstanding about the budget, and there is no extra money for a birthday party.
- The money we have is for line items, so it could be difficult to spend.
- The EC will spend the money on printing copies of the BEAP and paying for the bucket list meeting.
- The birthday celebration can be planned around Eco-Heroes.

Eco-Heroes pilot project

- The Eco-Heroes working group recently had a meeting about the pilot to include an adult category. EC members met with Gail Lundergan from the Commission on Aging, which will be a co-sponsor of Eco-Heroes.
- The proposed theme is "Embracing Our Aging Planet".
- The EC may get help from the city arts coordinator and possibly the Arts Commission.
- The working group will start to promote the contest soon to give adults plenty of time to create something.
- The plan is to get businesses to sponsor cash prizes to give the winners.
- Motion: Proceed with Eco-Heroes as a joint project with the Commission on Aging (all approve)

7. New business

City Council member

- Commission on Sustainability has an appointed city council person to attend their meetings, but the EC does not.
- The EC could write a letter to city council requesting a council member. Then, the EC's ordinance could be changed so that we have a liaison.
- This would be beneficial because the appointed person can take EC issues/proposals to the council. Isabelle would be a good liaison, or the EC could get someone who isn't already interested in the environment.
- Instead of having them attend meetings, the EC could just send minutes to the person to keep them informed.
- However, this could be too much for council members. They also might not be able to come to meetings very often.
- Another option would be for the EC to go to council meetings for bigger issues.

Officers for Next Year

- The EC needs a committee of three commissioners who aren't already officers to come up with a slate of officers for next year.

- Committee: Nick (chair), Chris, and Ramsay
- Offices: president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer

Upcoming Discussion with the Mayor

- At the December meeting, the mayor will give a presentation and he is supposed to talk about commissions in general and the EC.
- Potential questions or topics of discussion:
 - How safe is the EC?
 - What is the role of commissions, specifically the EC?
 - Who do the commissions actually report to?
 - Who hears us?
 - Should we be more focused on initiatives or policy?
 - Why was the sanitation proposal made without consulting EC?
 - The city isn't using us as an advisory board as stated in the ordinance.
 - Why was the downtown recycling center closed without consulting the EC?
 - Can we write letters without going up the flagpole?
 - How seriously do you take our advice? How seriously do you solicit our advice?
- The EC will create an ad hoc committee that meets by email, which will write a one page summary of the EC. This can be used for the discussion, and it is also for the yearly report.

8. Commissioner announcements

- Nick: Nick is going to be part of a steering committee about bike and pedestrian safety for the comprehensive plan. The mayor is trying to push for tiny houses in Prospect Hills and possibly Broadview.
- David: David's property was part of the Covenanter's farm.
- Wendy: Lynton Caldwell was selected to be an Indiana legend. Wendy is going to Hammond to talk about him since she wrote his biography.
- Mike: Mike suggests including votes in the minutes. The director of the Indiana Recycling Coalition got elected to the Indiana House of Representatives.
- Chris: Chris is working on the habitat network map.
- Kriste: Kriste has submitted her resignation after serving on the EC for 13 years. She will be focusing on family matters yet remain active, especially on the topic of water, where and when possible. At some point in the future, she hopes to rejoin the commission.

9. Adjourn